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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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FOREIGN NEWS ON CITRUS FRUIT

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SPANISH ORANGE CROP SERIOUSLY INJURED

The frosts which visited the Valencia orange growing district of Spain from December 24 to 27, 1926, caused great damage to the 1926-27 crop, the greater portion of which was still on the trees, states Consul Clement S. Edwards, in a report received in the Department of Agriculture dated January 14,1927. In addition, an unusually violent wind and rain storm broke over this region on Christmas night, uprooting many trees and causing great damage to property. The 1925-26 production of oranges in all of Spain amounted to 1,291,342 short tons of which 90 per cent was produced in the Levante or Valencia district. No estimate has been received as yet on the quantity of oranges that will be available for export, but since the district in which the storm damage was suffered produces the bulk of the Spanish crop, it is believed that exports will fall considerably below the levels of the past five seasons.

The most reliable estimates state that the loss suffered in some areas of the Levante was only 30 per cent but in other areas it was as high as 90 per cent of the crop. In order to prevent a repetition of the situation in 1925 when large quantities of damaged oranges were exported, bringing discredit to Spanish fruit in foreign markets, a royal decree was put into effect immediately after the frost, prohibiting the gathering of oranges until January 15, 1927. A second royal decree put into effect on January 7, 1927, authorized the appointment of inspectors in each of the cities of the orange producing area to prevent the shipment of damaged fruit.

At the date of the frost, nearly 2,500,000 cases of oranges had already gone into the export trade. This quantity may be considered as approximately one-fifth of the usual crop, states Consul Edwards. Exports of oranges during the past five seasons averaged 9,299,233 cases annually. A middleman known as the "confeccionador" acts between the producer and the export agent. This middleman visits the groves, makes the purchases from the cultivators, and later on attends to the grading and packing of the fruit for export. The matter of settling accounts between the "confeccionador" and the export agent is effected at the end of the exporting season. The shipping season begins in September and ends early in August of the following year. Approximately 95 per cent of the exports are shipped in half cases which contain 240, 300 and 504 oranges, depending on the sizes of oranges preferred in different markets.

The following tables give the commercial acreage and production of oranges in Spain during 1925-26 and the exports from Spain during the past five seasons:

ORANGES: Area and production in Spain, 1925-26

District and Provinces	Commercial area	Production
	Acres	Short tons
Catalina:		
Barcelona	62	827
Tarragona	2,422	10,939
Lerida and Gerona	---	---
Total	2,484	11,766
Levante:		
Valencia	53,752	635,736
Alicante	2,609	14,489
Castellon	41,982	410,145
Murcia	9,064	124,004
Total	107,407	1,134,374
Andalucia Oriental....		
Granada	146	4,749
Joen	---	---
Malaga	3,840	38,841
Almeria	1,962	20,608
Total	5,848	64,198
Andalucia Occidental:		
Sevilla	6,178	51,194
Cadiz	642	3,135
Cordoba	1,322	15,592
Huelva	1,982	2,412
Total	10,124	72,333
Extremadura:		
Badajoz	324	3,427
Caceros	413	1,005
Total ...	737	4,432
Spanish Islands:		
Palma de Mallovea ...	319	1,599
Santa Cruz de Tenerife	---	800
Las Palmas...	146	1,402
Total	---	3,801
All other districts...	110	438
Total Spain..	127,175	1,291,342

Source: Assistant Commercial Attache, E. D. Hester, at Madrid.

ORANGES: Exports from Spain, 1921-22 to 1925-26

Destination	1921-22	1922-23	1923-24	1924-25	1925-26
	Half cases	Half cases	Half cases	Half cases	Half cases
Belgium	686,387	712,388	961,402	961,843	979,618
United Kingdom.	5,616,342	5,827,569	5,294,463	6,138,239	5,657,868
Denmark	109,090	120,866	164,982	106,533	104,843
France	38,983	50,000	64,538	31,347	16,000
Germany	235,536	135,569	1,271,433	2,241,823	1,765,877
Holland	911,399	696,535	1,275,918	1,242,315	1,039,623
Ireland	174,119	201,338	156,340	142,564	106,418
Norway	143,833	172,517	130,600	194,412	135,066
Sweden	52,344	48,832	50,612	66,045	64,924
Other countries	5,230	2,215	46,990	32,200	99,837
Total	7,983,263	7,967,829	9,417,278	11,157,321	9,970,074

Source: Consul Clement S. Edwards, Valencia.
Note: Half cases weigh about 110 pounds, each.

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